Indigenously produced anti-cancer drugs

667. DR. R. K. PODDAR:
SHRI NARAYAN KAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1646 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 1991, and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that indigenously produced anti-cancer formulations are cheaper than imported one;

(b) what is the price at which indigenously produced anti-cancer formulations and imported formulations are being sold;

(c) what is the objective of concession/exemption of custom duty on imported anti-cancer finished medicines which are indigenously produced and how such a step would boost indigenous production;

(d) whether it is a fact that Vinblastine, Vincrestine, Danazol and Etoposide are exempted from custom duty based on the recommendation of Government;

(e) if so, what steps are being taken to withdraw custom duty;

(f) whether it is also a fact that Etoposide is being produced in the country and is being sold at half price of imported vial;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether it is a fact that indigenous production attracts State Excise duty; and

(i) if so, what is the percentage of duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) There are a number of anti-cancer formulations sold in the country, of which only very few are being manufactured indigenously. In order to ensure the easy availability of these life saving drugs at cheaper prices, they are given customs duty exemption when imported. However, when domestic production of any formulation commences, and request is received for withdrawal of this concession, the Department takes necessary action in this respect. No study has been done regarding prevailing prices of these formulations which are prices decontrolled.

(d) At present imported Vinablastine Sulphate Injection, Etoposide Capsule, Injection and Vincrestine Sulphate Injection are exempted from Customs Duty.

(e) As stated at 'a' to 'c' above, on receipt of request, further action will be taken.

(f) and (g) Production of Etoposide is being currently monitored in this Department.

(h) No Sir.

(i) Does not arise.

Inclusion of Drugs in DPCO

668. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 755 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th July, 1991 and state:

(a) what are the names of drugs which were considered by the Standing Committee for wrong exclusion/inclusion from price control recommended by Kelkar Committee so far;

(b) what are the names of drugs which are still to be examined by the committee and by when decision on all drugs would be taken;

(c) whether Standing Committee has made any recommendation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) what are the details of recommendations which have been accepted/rejected by Government; and

(f) how many recommendations are still pending and by when final decision would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The Standing Committee